

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A coupling structure, comprising:

a shaft body having a positioning recess close to an end portion thereof;

a shaft joint having an engagement groove with which the shaft body is engaged, bores facing the engagement groove, and a flexible member which is provided, in a longitudinal direction of the shaft joint, on an outer side of the shaft joint ~~and~~, projects in the depth direction of the engagement groove, and engages the positioning recess such that it ~~the flexible member~~ regulates movement of the shaft body in a longitudinal direction; and

a coupling shaft, which is inserted into the bores, for coupling the shaft body and the shaft joint.

2. (Previously Presented) The coupling structure according to Claim 1, wherein the flexible member has a deflection regulating portion, the deflection regulating portion being substantially planar and including a planar surface facing a side face of the engagement groove.

3. (Previously Presented) The coupling structure according to Claim 2, wherein a tip of the flexible member is bent outward in a width direction of the engagement groove.

4. (Previously Presented) The coupling structure according to Claim 3, wherein the flexible member is provided more inwardly than another side face of the engagement groove.

5. (Previously Presented) The coupling structure according to Claim 2, wherein the flexible member is provided more inwardly than another side face of the engagement groove.

6. (Previously Presented) The coupling structure of Claim 1, wherein the shaft body includes a top face adjacent the coupling shaft and a side face, the positioning recess being disposed in the side face of the shaft body.

7. (Currently Amended) A coupling structure, comprising:

a shaft body having a positioning recess close to an end portion thereof;

a shaft joint having an engagement groove engaging the shaft body;

bores facing the engagement groove; and

a flexible member provided on an outer side of the shaft joint and, extending in a longitudinal direction of the engagement groove, and engaging with the positioning recess in a longitudinal direction of the shaft body;

a coupling shaft inserted into the bores and coupling the shaft body and the shaft joint; and

a semi-circular groove near an end portion of the shaft body containing the coupling shaft.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (New) A coupling structure, comprising:

a shaft body including:

an engagement portion, and

a positioning recess close to an end portion of said shaft body and adjacent the engagement portion;

a shaft joint including:

an engagement groove with which the shaft body is engaged,

bores facing the engagement groove, and

a flexible member which is provided, in a longitudinal direction of the shaft joint, outside the engagement groove, projected in the depth direction of the engagement groove, and engages the positioning recess such that it regulates movement of the shaft body in a longitudinal direction: and

a coupling shaft, which is inserted into the bores, for coupling the shaft body and the shaft joint.